

Kacky Chantry Candidate Statement for Mayor 2020

In preparing these opening remarks, I have been reflecting on the obvious question, why do I want to run again?

It's been a question I've thought a lot about. I feel fortunate to live in such a beautiful town with vibrant gardens and great people. I thank god every day for the beauty around us. And I want to ensure that we keep this Town as lovely in the future as it is now. And I want to keep our community united even when we may not always agree. It's important to remember that we stay focused on what's best for the Town and our community as a whole and that we seek consensus and compromise when faced with opposing positions and divergent opinions. We are living in unprecedented times. The COVID-19 pandemic has altered our lives in ways we are still learning. It is reshaping our individual and social perspectives and testing our individual and community spirit. But I am heartened by what I have seen around me and the willingness of our community to come together to support one another. I want to see this unity continue; to have our children see the place they live as a caring and generous community. One that teaches consensus, compromise, tolerance, and compassion.

These are my personal reasons for wanting to serve another 2 years as your Mayor. But I also want to see some things get done for the Town at large.

I am looking forward to finishing the SRTS sidewalk project. It has demanded a vast majority of my time, and I am eager to turn attention to other important Town projects.

For example, we are very close to finalizing an engineering solution to mitigate the stormwater erosion problems at the end of Rokeby. This is a stormwater management issue that has been neglected for far too long. Neighbors are losing property and their homes are getting flooded. I would like the Council to approve the plan chosen by our ad hoc stormwater advisory committee in concert with residents. This is presently being fine-tuned by our town engineer.

I am eager to get our parking enforcement efforts underway. We have hired a part-time officer but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have not been able to bring him onboard. I would like to continue to build efficiencies and improve operational processes in the Town Office with our Town Manager and staff. The responsibilities around Town are growing, and more services are being asked of Town staff. At the same time, we are outgrowing our office space. As we anticipate revenue losses due to the Pandemic Stay at Home Order, we'll need to prioritize and be more resourceful.

For instance, I would like us to make better use of the Penn Place parking lot that serves the Black Market Bistro staff and customers as well as the Marc train commuters on weekdays and the Farmer's Market on Saturdays. We need to improve the traffic flow through this parking lot and at the same time create a safer environment for non-vehicular traffic. This has

been studied multiple times over many years. It would be great finally do something about it. I look forward to working with the Council and residents to get it done.

I also would like to make the long-needed repairs to the old beat-up asphalt sidewalks on Waverly and on Oxford. These are in poor condition and have been a tripping hazard for years. I hope the Council will help me in getting these done. Although I must admit, I also hope we can get someone else to manage the construction! The SRTS sidewalk has shown me how much time is needed to properly oversee such a project.

For those of you who don't know me, I am from a family of 10 children, raised in upstate New York. Learning to compromise and support one another was a big part of my upbringing. I served four years in the U.S. Army before entering civil service. Most of my federal career was spent managing large organizations and budgets—some in the billions. My background in science and statistics, as well as my fondness for writing, served me very well. And I gained a reputation as a troubleshooter and a forward thinker. After reaching the ranks of the senior executive service I finally retired. My husband Dennis and I moved to Garrett Park in 1998 with our son Tamaro and daughter Kaylie. Our kids went to school at the GPES and Holy Cross. We've love living here and have made great friends that I hope will last a lifetime. After all it's a beautiful town with great people!

I hope you will vote for me as your Mayor so that we can continue to build on the beauty of our town and the wonderful community that we are. If you have questions, you can reach me by cell/text at 301-875-5157 or by email at mayorkacky@garrettparkmd.gov.